



The New England College of

Optometry

First Year
Students...
Getting Clinical
Experience in
Real World
Environments

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

2004

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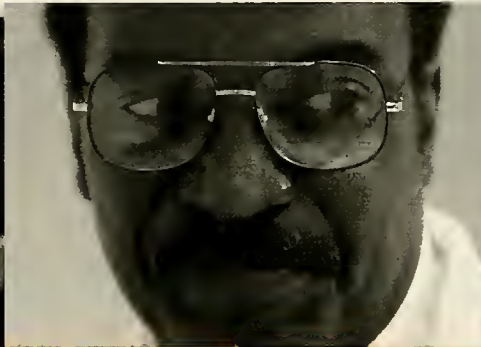
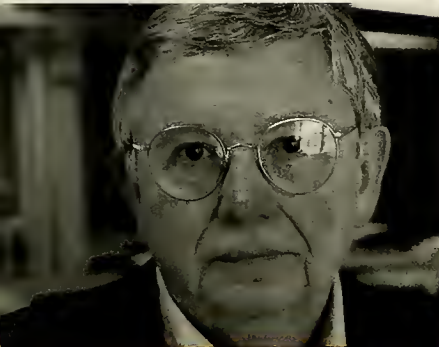
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The New England College of

Optometry

ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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More than 1,000 homeless men and women living in six Boston shelters are receiving eye examinations and eyeglasses, thanks to an expanding community service program conducted by the New England Eye Institute, the college's clinical arm.

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"No man has done more on the front line of eye-caring in the neighborhoods" than Dr. Andrea Quamina, a gentle and compassionate ophthalmologist who has been a role model for generations of New England College of Optometry students.

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The desire of some teenagers to look "cool" by swapping contact lenses is a growing and potentially dangerous practice that can result in serious eye diseases and, in some cases, blindness, two students discover in a research project.

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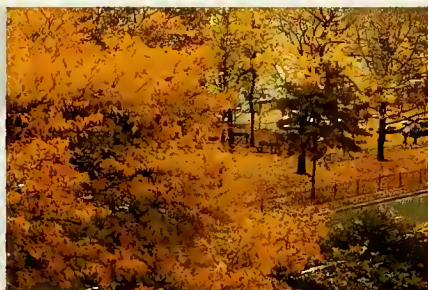
2004



www.neco.edu

letter from the

editor



The College has welcomed 110 new students as we start the school year. Within two to three weeks, these new OD1's will be screening patients in local schools in conjunction with New England Eye Institute clinicians and faculty.

Clifford Scott, OD, MPH, discusses how this new, clinically-based curriculum is changing the way the next generation of optometrists is being educated and trained to practice in a constantly changing health care environment (Page 4).

If you want to learn more about the work of our current students, you will find the discovery of a dangerous trend of contact lens swapping by teenagers (Page 22) fascinating and applaud the work of those providing eye care for the homeless (Page 10) through an expanding New England Eye Institute initiative.

In the first of what will be an on-going series of stories about our alumni at work, we take a look at a new practice (Page 18) established in a Boston suburb by Neil Kozol '81, OD, the son of Frank Kozol '48, OD, a professor emeritus and teacher of generations of New England College of Optometry students.

This issue of our alumni magazine also pays tribute (Page 26) to the late Ned Witkin '83, an internationally respected leader in the field of low vision. He helped to establish and directed the Low Vision Center at Emory University. A scholarship for students interested in low vision is being established at the College in Ned's memory.

There is a lot more in this busy issue, including a special insert honoring those who contribute to the College, the always popular Alumni Notes, news of faculty, and a profile of the inspirational Dr. Andre Quamina.

We hope you will contribute to Alumni Notes for our next issue, give us ideas about interesting practices, or give us your views of the contents of this issue.

Barry Wanger
Acting Editor
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College Welcomes New Class

The 110 students in the incoming Class of 2008 reflect the College's commitment to geographic and ethnic diversity, representing 25 states and four foreign countries. There were 604 applicants, a sharp jump over recent years.

Only 26 percent of the entering class is from New England, while Canada and California students together represent 38 percent of the students. Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Tennessee and Texas are also well represented among the class.

The states and countries with the largest representation include: Massachusetts and Canada, 20 each; California, 17; New York, 7, Illinois, 6, and Florida, New Hampshire, and Tennessee, three each.

There is one student each from Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, and Yugoslavia.

Mirroring the national trend, women outnumber men in the class 77 to 33. Approximately 30 percent of the class is minority. GPA and OAT scores for the new class showed a slight increase over last year. Median test scores declined for all schools of optometry, making the increase in these scores for the new students more significant.

430/90

542/104

604/110

Applications/**Enrolled**

MENTOR
ALUMNI
PROGRAM

Contribute to the Future of Optometry:
Serve as an Alumni Mentor

The objective of the Mentor Alumni Program is to strengthen the optometric profession by developing an early and strong bond between students and practicing alumni by inviting alumni to serve as personal resources of information and as sources of inspiration to current students.

Get Involved and Make a Difference

For more information, please contact Whitney Ashe at
617-236-6209 or ashew@neco.edu.



Incoming first-year students may be ready to hit the books when classes began in September – but they have to be prepared

to hit the streets, too...

Students

experience real world clinical care

BY PAT GALE



In the College's new, clinically-based curriculum, students receive their introduction to patient care not at campus clinics, but in Boston area public schools. And they do it from Day One.

The new academic initiative – Curriculum 2010 – was introduced after five years of planning by the faculty as a way to prepare students for the future practice of optometry in a constantly changing health care environment.

"The change," said Clifford Scott, OD, MPH, "was designed to convert students when they walk in the door into doctors-in-training as quickly as possible."

Before their first week is completed, they are out observing doctors' interaction with patients, and then actually seeing patients, through assignments to school screening programs in pre- and elementary schools.

"These students go with faculty supervisors, but actually do the screening," said Dr. Scott, who serves as Chairman of the Department of Community Health. "By the time they've finished their first year, they've probably screened 100 kids."

The experience was nerve-wracking at first, he admitted. "We weren't even in school a month, and we were out doing this in the community. As the year goes

along, and you see more kids, you get more comfortable with it and it becomes a little easier."

Justin Cole, who arrived at the College from the State University of New York, said the program has advantages over those at other schools. "We were able to go into various health centers and work with patients from different cultural backgrounds. It gives you a very diverse experience in a clinical setting."

That observation is not lost on Dr. Scott, who said the curriculum is designed as a "wake up call" for the students. "When they practice with each other, they have cooperative patients.



"The change was designed to convert students... into doctors-in-training as quickly as possible."

Dr. Clifford Scott

When we send them out to the local schools, they have to learn a lot of skills quickly, or they don't get the information they need" from the screenings.

Creating New Opportunities

Phased in over the past four years, the new curriculum has generated "spectacular" feedback from students, he said. "Our fourth-year students say they wish they'd had these opportunities in their first year," Dr. Scott said.

"Part of the reason we revised the curriculum is that we recognized years ago that students who had experience being out in the community – even working in a retail store – assimilated patient care skills more quickly. We simply formalized that by getting first-year students out of the classroom.

The Boston school screenings, he said, dovetail with other portions of the curriculum that place students not only





in optometrists' offices, but also the offices of podiatrists, nurse practitioners and other health professionals, as well as settings like Veterans' Administration hospitals.

"During their first month, students are assigned to go into different optometrists' offices to do observation, to assess how the doctors interface with their patients from an information-gathering educational standpoint," Dr. Scott said.

"They watch the doctor's body language, the terminology used, the doctor's eye contact with the patient. Do they involve the family? How do they communicate?" With that experience under their belts, the students are sent to other health professionals' offices to make the same observations.

"The point of the assignment," Dr. Scott said, "is to show that it doesn't make a difference whether you're testing eyes or looking at a foot problem. We hope they will recognize early on in their careers not to be so ocular-centric, to think that the body is an appendage attached to the eye."

Facing Real World Challenges

That fact is not lost on the new students, who are quickly faced with squirming toddlers and not-always cooperative children — and some who don't want to admit they might have a problem.

"At a certain age, kids don't want to wear glasses," noted James Belanger, who finished his first year this spring. "They get picked on, so they'd rather go along with poor vision than wear glasses." Screening for potential problems in a population that may well want to hide those problems can be a challenge, he said.

The experience, though valuable, he said, only confirmed his initial assumption that his ultimate career goal does not include working with children.

"It took a while for me to get used to it," Ayana Robateau said of the Head Start screenings. I was surprised we were starting so soon, and had never really thought about working with children. After a while, I found a level at which I could communicate with them, and it wasn't bad at all."

Ayana who came to New England from Tuskegee University in Alabama, recalled a day when she was working with a third or fourth-grader who did not speak English. Before she had a chance to get frustrated, she said, "another student translated the whole exam for the girl. I was really impressed with how helpful that student was."

Ayana has worked at the New England Eye Institute and as a sales associate at a fashion optical shop to gain experience working with people. "It gives you a different perspective," she said of her experiences dispensing eyewear. She still doesn't plan a career working with children, but the first-year clinical program "made me aware than I can. It definitely opened up some possibilities."

For some students, the early entry into clinical settings leads to a complete change in career choice. "We lose about five percent of each class on average," Dr. Scott said. But with this program, that's more likely to happen in the first year, with students who find they don't have the social skills that are required, rather than in the third year. The same



number of students still opt out, but they do it earlier now.

“Being a doctor,” he said, “is not for everyone.”

Benefits of Clinical Experience

His own experience has given Scott a unique perspective on the curriculum. A graduate of the Massachusetts College of Optometry, he had a private practice in Newport, R.I., worked in a clinic in Boston, and spent 18 years at the VA medical center before making a career change to education.

“I’ve been on the receiving end” of the educational experience, he said, referring to the students who were assigned to him while he worked at the VA center, “and I’ve seen what students are capable of doing.”

As they go into the community schools, the first-year students work under the mentorship of an instructor. The screenings they conduct are similar to those performed by other community organizations like the Lions Club. “We figure our students have the same abilities as those volunteers,” he said. The students do not interpret their findings, but simply collect data. “The faculty member is there all the time and looks at every patient,” Dr. Scott said.

Working with the children, the first-year students measure visual acuity and the alignment of the eyes, test the ability of both eyes to work together (stereo vision), and document the absence of overt eye disease. “There are,” Dr. Scott noted, “a lot of bragging rights associated with finding something new,” and students take their role in the screening seriously.

Joel Tuite, who came to Boston from the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, appreciated the opportunity to work

with pre-schoolers and elementary school students immediately. He recalled his discovery of a coloboma in the iris of an eight-year old boy. “It was interesting to find something like that” so early in his training.

“There aren’t a lot of institutions that offer the opportunity to do something like this right off the bat — to get out of the classroom and into a clinical setting. It’s one of the things that drew me to this school,” Tuite said.

Student participation in the screenings in Head Start classrooms, kindergartens and elementary schools throughout the Boston area continues through the first year — and it’s paying off. “What you see is that these students are different people in May than they were in September,” Dr. Scott said.



“There aren’t a lot of institutions that offer the opportunity to do something like this — get out of the classroom and into a clinical setting... it’s one of the things that drew me to this school.”

Joel Tuite, OD2



It's not until a few weeks after the students from the College have packed up their equipment and completed their monthly visit to Father Bill's Place, a homeless shelter in Quincy, MA, that Hope Wilson begins to see the complete benefit of the eye care program...



That's when the eyeglasses arrive, enabling many of whom Ms. Wilson, the shelter's head nurse, calls "my clients," see well for the first time in years. One man, she recalls, openly cried upon receiving his pair of extremely thick glasses, as he could finally read the newspaper without holding it at arm's length.

"It makes a huge difference in their lives. For some, depending on how bad their vision is, it keeps them from getting a job. It's hard to have a job if you can't see, if your vision is so bad you can't read," Ms. Wilson said. "To see somebody get glasses, it's like being reborn."

Father Bill's Place is one of six locations where the New England Eye Institute, the clinical arm of the College, operates its homeless care program, which provides eye examinations and glasses to guests at various shelters in the Boston area.

The exams are conducted by a NEEI attending optometrist and a third-year optometry student. The program serves 1,000 patients per year and dispenses 1,250 pairs of glasses annually.

Bill Chauncey, OD, an associate professor of optometry and NEEI's Chief of the Homeless Service, credited a student who received a community service grant, with founding the program about 12 years ago.

Dr. Chauncey became involved with the program nine years ago, performing eye exams at Boston's Pine Street Inn, New England's largest shelter. He saw what he called an "obvious" need for a clinic at the shelter, and was able to convince both Pine Street and the College's Administration to open one.

Last year, Barry Barresi '77, OD, president of the New England Eye Institute, named Dr. Chauncey as Chief of the Homeless Service, to lead a major effort to expand and improve care to the vulnerable population homeless at the Pine Street, New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, and several other shelters in the area. The Pine Street and Veterans programs operate on a weekly basis.

Four other shelters: Father Bill's Place in Quincy, St. Francis House and The Women's Lunch Place in Boston and the Barbara McInnis House in Jamaica Plain, all provide exams about once a month.

Vision Care to the Homeless



BY KATIE ZEZIMA

For the College's teaching program, the NEEI Homeless Service offers students the opportunity to care for a unique population with significant health needs.

Many of the homeless patients suffer from diabetes, hypertension and untreated cataracts; many simply cannot see, but could never afford glasses. To that end, many of the patients know they have cataracts but have never been treated because they could not afford surgery. Many of the patients have not had an eye exam in years, causing many problems to go untreated.

"The experience is pretty surprising for those who have only worked in optometry clinics or hospital settings. Our students have never been anywhere else where they've seen so much untreated disease, and where people who know



they have a disease aren't getting the health care they need," Dr. Chauncey said.

Gary Moss, OD, an associate professor of optometry, has run the NEEI program at the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans for about a year. He and his students see pathologies much different from those in a regular private practice, and the percentage of eye diseases is much higher. In fact, one in 15 patients in the general population has an eye disease; at the shelter one in four does, he said.

"We provide a very valuable service for a group of people that is usually overlooked, and it's really a very rewarding educational experience," Dr. Moss said.

The veteran's shelter has a personal meaning for Dr. Moss, a veteran himself, who wrote "Hippie Artifacts," a book about the 1960s. He and four students spend two days a week at the shelter, seeing about 400 veterans a year.

Dr. Chauncey saw what he called **an obvious need**

for a clinic at the shelter, and was able to convince both the Pine Street Inn and the College's Administration to open one...



about Mei Lei and the Tet Offensive. They relate to me a lot about the late 1960s in America," he said. "I go in every day and feel really lucky because the worst day of my life is probably better than the best day these people have had in a decade."

As the patients are struggling to get on their feet and make ends meet, Ms. Wilson said the program provides necessary eye care that would otherwise have been postponed or neglected. While some of her clients receive free exams through state health plans, they do not receive free glasses and aftercare, as they do with the NEEI program.

"Some people decide they have to work and save enough money to get an apartment, and eyeglasses and eye exams are so expensive. It's about survival, and vision isn't high on the list," Ms. Wilson said.

The sentiment is echoed by Rick Hannisian, 52, who has lived and worked at Father Bill's Place since May. Hannisian, a survivor of a stroke that left him without right peripheral vision, last received an eye exam five years ago.

"Most of them are Vietnam vets. Most have been in battles, and they convey their experiences

Someone stole his glasses, which cost \$130, when he moved into the shelter, and Hannisian, an avid reader, could not read for weeks. He heard about the eye care program at Father Bill's, and tried to sign up for one of the six spots, all of which were filled. He hung around the cafeteria, where the exams take place, during the June visit, and was able to secure an appointment when one resident failed to show.

Hannisian was given an exam and a brand-new pair of bifocals. He keeps the glasses, with their thin oval, black and gold wire frames tucked into the front of his white T-shirt. He now reads every day and night before bed.

"I thought it was great, I really did," Hannisian said. "Not having money and not knowing where you can get another pair of glasses, it was really helpful to me."

Dr. Chauncey would like to expand the Homeless Service, adding more hours to the current locations and branching out to Cambridge and other parts of the Boston area. And those who work with the homeless, like Ms. Davis, would welcome it.

"It would be great if they could do more," Ms. Davis said. "It's a wonderful service they provide to the homeless community, and it's greatly needed."

IF YOU POLL THE LAST

SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF NEW ENGLAND

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY STUDENTS AND ASK THEM WHO HAS BEEN THEIR ROLE MODEL FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE, THE ODDS ARE THAT THE VOTE WOULD BE NEARLY UNANIMOUS

FOR A GENTLE AND COMPASSIONATE OPHTHALMOLOGIST.



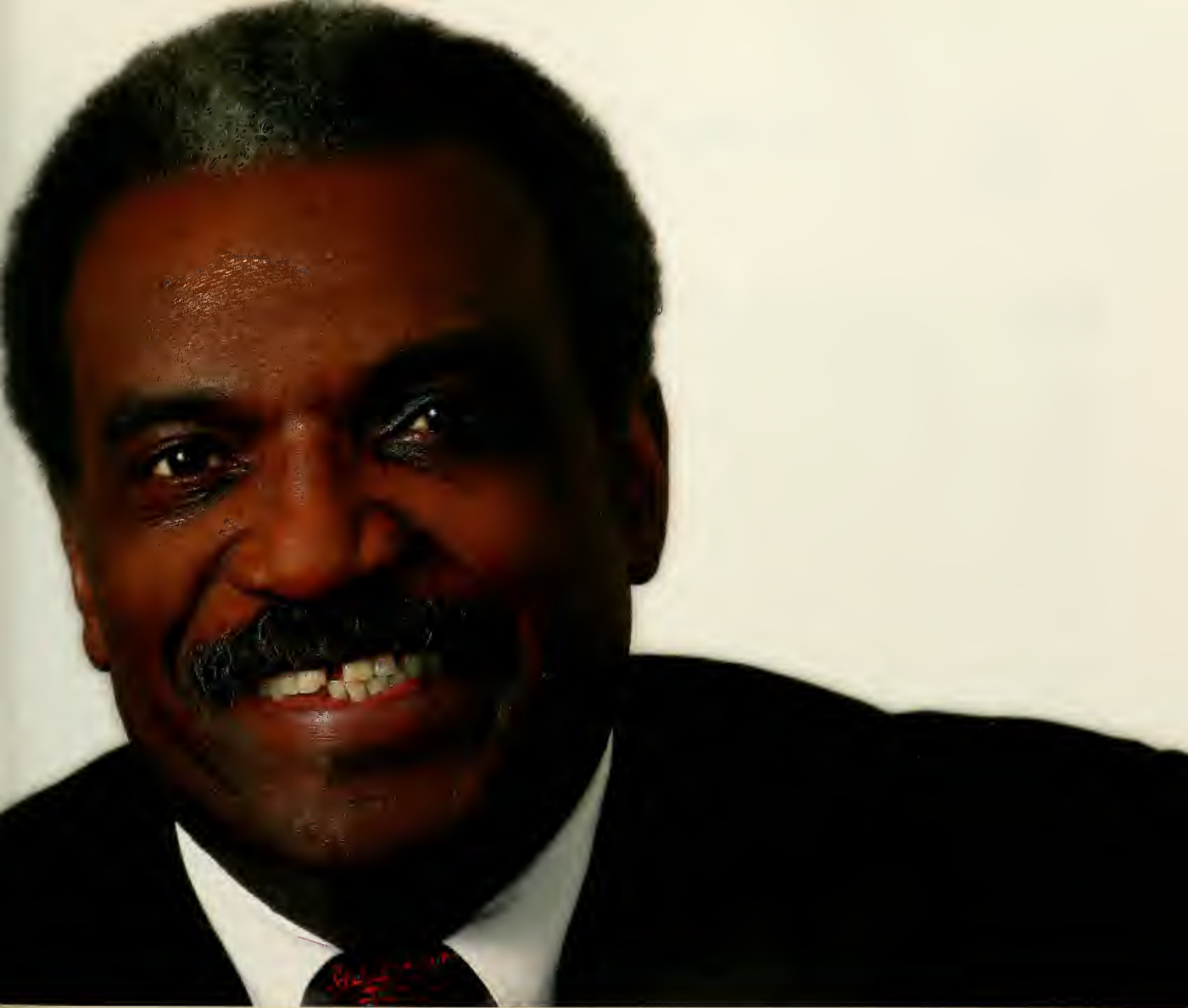
THE EYES HAVE IT: DR.

Boston Mayor Tom Menino agrees and issued a Mayoral Proclamation to help honor Dr. Andre Quamina, at the New England Eye Institute's awarding of its first Community Clinician Award.

The Mayor cited Dr. Quamina, an adjunct faculty at the College and clinical member of the NEEI system, for devoting "his medical career to the betterment of community and the eye health of Boston's neighborhoods."

A student at the College who first met Dr. Quamina in 1977 at Dorchester House, a community health center, was one of many attendees at the awards event who could attest to his impact on the community and their own professional lives.

"No ophthalmologist in the city has done more on the front line of care-giving in the neighborhoods than Andre," said Dr. Barry Barresi '77, the president of the New England Eye Institute, who credits Dr. Quamina for being the major influence on his decision to go into community health care.



QUAMINA IS A MAN OF VISION

BY KATIE ZEZIMA

"I don't know anyone who has had the impact he has on the eye care of patients in the community. No one even comes close," says Dr. Douglas Hoffman '80, director of Eye Care Services at Dorchester House, and a colleague of the popular Dr. Quamina for the past 24 years.

A CAREER BASED ON COMPASSION

In a career spanning more than three decades, Dr. Quamina, whose ancestors were brought to St. Vincent in the Caribbean

from Ghana as slaves, has mentored more than 1,000 optometry students and treated tens of thousands of patients, most of them minorities and new immigrants.

He has served as staff ophthalmologist for 32 years at the Dimock Community Health Center in Roxbury, as a consultant at Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, and as an adjunct professor at the College.

Typical of those who have been influenced by Dr. Quamina's work and his commitment to the community is Dr. Jean Sewell '81, director of eye services at Dimock.

"I DON'T KNOW ANYONE



"His impact on me, when I was new here, was enormous," she said. "He helped me grow and learn and I've seen him do the same things with so many interns. He believes in training providers at every level. He's always looking to serve people and the community."

COMMUNITY ICON

"Community" is probably the single word that best describes Dr. Quamina. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a person like Dr. Q. to create and sustain the community.

"The neighborhood is everybody," Quamina said during a recent interview. "It's Vietnamese and Haitians, Afro-Americans and Poles. The neighborhood health center is just around the corner. It's not just medicine. It's teen centers and senior citizen places. It's swimming pools,





2004

Report of Gifts



The New England College of Optometry

Message

from the President



Alan Laird Lewis

I am pleased to report that the College is both academically and financially healthy in spite of an economy that, although steadily recovering, continues to fluctuate markedly with the news of the day. Again this year we have seen a strong interest in the College with another double digit increase in the number of qualified applicants and deposits for the Class of 2009. We are at or near the top of all optometry schools in the number of applicants per seat, a measure of the strength of our faculty and clinical training programs.

In the fall of 2003, we were re-accredited by both the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), our regional accreditation body, and by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE), the professional degree accreditation body. The evaluation reports of the two agencies confirmed that the College is meeting or exceeding national standards for graduate professional education and that its programs are both academically sound and fiscally stable. Of special note is the approval of our new Master of Science in Vision Science program which will allow selected students to concurrently pursue both the O.D. and M.Sc. degrees. We expect that the addition of this option will further strengthen the attractiveness of the College to gifted applicants.

The 2003-2004 year has been marked by a renewed effort to connect with our alumni and friends. During the summer of 2004, students have been calling alumni to update phone and e-mail information so that we can

communicate with more of you by electronic means. A completely revised web site will be up and running this fall which will make it far easier for you to get information about the College and which, we believe, will project a modern and positive image of the institution. All this is part of aggressive program to update the College's publications, communication tools, and public image.

Although we strive to keep tuition increases at or near the rate of inflation, we know that most of our students finance their education with loans and that we continue to lag in meeting the financial needs of many of them. The estimated cost of one year's education at the College, including living expenses, is approximately \$44,000 while the maximum loan available to students is \$38,000. The "unmet need" of \$6000 must be made up from other sources and is a major objective for our scholarship funds. Your contributions serve both to reduce our dependence on tuition revenues and to provide direct financial aid to our students, lowering the debt burden that virtually all of our graduates incur during their eight years of college and optometry school.

I want to assure you that your contributions are genuinely appreciated by the entire College community and are important to the continued strength of the institution. Please feel free to contact me with your comments or concerns; and thank you for your support of this distinguished College.

Alan Laird Lewis, O.D., Ph.D.
President



Update From The

Office for Institutional Advancement

The advancement program has seen major changes over the past year, with significant improvements in both development and public relations. Fundraising showed a sharp increase in FY '04 and we made significant changes to communicate with alumni and friends of the College in a more professional and more timely manner.

Development

Total giving to the College in 2004 totaled \$195,255, a 32% increase over the previous year. Alumni participation in the annual fund increased slightly, but remains below the national average for schools of optometry.

Under the leadership of Mary Scott, '68, unrestricted giving increased by 72%. Annual gifts totaled \$109,651 in FY 2004, up from \$63,484 in FY'03. Participation in both the Dean's Club, chaired by Bob Parks '84 and the Centennial Club, chaired by Mike Cohn '77, also increased. Mike procured Red Sox season's tickets as an incentive for alumni to join the Centennial Club. New members received tickets to a Sox game when they joined the club with a \$1,000 gift.

"Fundraising showed a sharp increase in FY '04 and we made significant changes to communicate with alumni and friends of the College..."

Capital giving also showed an increase over the previous year. The College added two new endowed scholarships. Joseph Molinari '74 established the Wallace Molinari Scholarship in memory of his father. Dr. Fredric and Marion Rosemore, together with their granddaughter, Stacy Friedman Pinsker '01, created a scholarship that benefits several students annually.

The College also conducted its first student phonathon this past summer. Students made over 1,500 phone calls to alumni to update contact information and ask for annual fund gifts. The effort raised over \$8,000 in gifts and pledges. The calls also generated a large number of class notes which appear in this issue of *Optometry*.

Communications

In May, we published the first issue of *Optometry*, the redesigned and re-named alumni magazine. The four color format, improved photographs and professionally written articles generated positive comments from both alumni and faculty. In terms of quality and design, the magazine now ranks among the top publications among colleges of optometry.

The Advancement Office also introduced two quarterly newsletters to augment the magazine. *NEWENCO Update* provides current information on College events, activities and people. It alternates with the *NEWENCO Research Update*, which focuses on research conducted by the faculty at the College.

New Associate Director of Advancement, Whitney Ashe, is leading a project to redesign the College's website. The new look, created by Monderer Design in Boston, is targeted toward prospective

students, but will appeal to alumni and friends as well. In addition to the new design, the content of individual pages is also being rewritten and strengthened. The new website is scheduled to debut in the last quarter of 2004.

A new web address — www.neco.edu — will accompany the new design. The College is already using this new address, although "ne-oprometry" will continue to be valid through the end of 2004.

Alumni programs did not change significantly in 2004. The Alumni Office conducted several student and alumni focus groups during the year and made meeting personally with alumni a priority. In addition to the national Academy, AOA and SECO conferences, the College also co-sponsored a regional reception at the Maine Optometric Society meeting in June. We received an enthusiastic welcome from our Maine alumni, and plan to increase the scope of regional activities in 2005.

The 20th annual Dr. Foster Namias '32 Golf Tournament attracted over 90 players and raised over \$13,000 for the Namias Scholarship Fund. The Alumni Association continued the student mentor program and the very popular career seminar event.

We expect to improve on these alumni activities and add new events in 2005.

David E. Wilber
Vice President for Institutional
Advancement

The College's operating and financial strategies are driven by the focal points of the College's mission — education, eye care delivery and research. The past year was one of financial challenges and opportunities for the College community.

For a second year in a row an intensive recruitment campaign resulted in a double digit percentage increase of our applicant pool. Applications for the Class of 2008 were 604 versus 430 for the Class of 2006 and 540; for the Class of 2007. This fall we expect to enroll about 110 students in the regular four year OD program.

The recruitment effort, not limited to the four year OD program, met with mixed success in recruiting students for the AOPD and ASIP programs. Less than expected enrollment in those programs was in part due to an improved US economy that attracted students with better career opportunities and the international situation which discouraged foreign students from applying. Overall, the College met its enrollment plan but still continues to feel the effect of the unusually small Class of 2006.

As part of the implementation of Curriculum 2010, the patient care experience for third year students has increased significantly, placing additional demands on the New England Eye Institute to expand primary care training opportunities. NEEI has responded by expanding the number of its professional service agreements with both neighborhood health centers and local hospitals. The Eye Care Center of Chelsea, a NEEI-operated patient care facility co-located with the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center North, has experienced slower than expected growth since its opening in 2002.

Mirroring the national economy, the College's endowment had suffered losses for the last few years as it tracked the market. In July 2003, the College switched to an active management policy for its endowment. For the year, the total endowment increased by over

14% from \$10,000,009 to nearly \$11,462,000. The unrestricted portion of the endowment increased from \$5,114,000 to \$5,883,000 while the restricted portion increased from \$4,895,000 to \$5,579,000.

The positive financial performance of the College in this fiscal year is a result of responsible budgeting and careful spending policies. Mindful of ever increasing student debt burdens, tuition increases have been kept to inflationary levels while still permitting modest salary increases in spite of high health insurance benefit costs.

The College managed its finances so that it operated within its budget and met all its financial covenants under its bond issue. Comparative results of our unrestricted revenues and expenses for the twelve months ending June 30, 2004 and June 30, 2003 are as follows:

	2004	2003
Revenues	\$15,340,000	\$14,797,000
Expenditures	15,026,000	14,068,000
Depreciation	765,000	793,000
Investment gain (loss)	773,000	58,000
Net increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	323,000	(6,000)

	2004	2003
Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$9,186,000	\$8,864,000
Restricted Net Assets	6,006,000	5,321,000
Total Net Assets	15,192,000	15,192,000

“For a second year in a row an aggressive recruitment campaign resulted in a double digit percentage increase of our applicant pool ...”



Donor Report

July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

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The College's Mission

The mission of The New England College of Optometry is to serve the optometric needs of the public by educating optometrists to the highest level of proficiency, integrity, and professionalism.

In achieving its mission, the College:

- *Attracts and supports a faculty which excels in teaching and is committed to the growth and development of students;*
- *Creates a dynamic environment which combines tradition and innovation, fosters intellectual inquiry, and supports research;*
- *Serves the community by providing quality clinical vision care and educating the public about vision and eye health;*
- *Cultivates compassionate and ethical behavior, promotes life-long learning, and instills sensitivity to the health and social welfare of the community.*



The New England College of Optometry

424 Beacon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02115

WHO HAS HAD THE IMPACT HE HAS
ON THE EYE CARE OF PATIENTS IN
THE COMMUNITY. NO ONE
EVEN COMES CLOSE..."

DR. DOUGLAS HOFFMAN

basketball and gym. It's a place that draws the entire family and tries to demystify health care."

The story of Dr. Quamina's life in health care and community service began very early with two major role models: his mother and family physician.

He credits his mother, Mildred Elizabeth — or "Miss Milly" as she was widely known and admired in Rochester, NY — as a powerful influence and role model. She won numerous awards for community activism, taught immigrant students, and started credit unions at housing projects.

"She loved helping people and had a disregard for monetary things. I used to ask her, 'Did you get paid for that?' And she'd say, 'Oh, no, no.' Her payment was the feeling she got from helping people."

BEGINNINGS

He says he knew when he was just seven that he wanted to be a doctor. "My family doctor was my hero. He took me aside and told me, 'You're smart, and you have a good way with people. There's no reason you can't be a doctor.' Today, he pays his family doctor his highest praise: 'he was a community clinician, and that's my view of what a doctor is.'"

In high school, during the summer, he worked trying to improve living and working conditions for Rochester-area migrant farm workers. As a junior he got his first job in medicine: autopsy attendant. "I decided, 'well, If I'm going to be this doctor I better see if I can withstand the blood and guts of medicine.' Clearly, he passed his own test but, 'I never seriously considered pathology because it didn't involve people... that is, live people,' he laughs, relishing the punch line.

COMING TO BOSTON

Graduating from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh in 1960, Quamina knew where he wanted to study to become a doctor. "I looked at Boston as a Mecca for medicine and training and felt I could go anyplace in the country. I was raised to be confident."

After receiving an MA in neurochemistry and his MD from Boston University, Dr. Quamina briefly considered becoming a psychiatrist but changed his mind after seeing an ophthalmologist operate. "I enjoy immediate gratification," he says. "If you have someone who is legally blind and operate... (it's) ecstasy when they tell you they can see. "

While attending medical school, and later when he served in the Army, Dr. Quamina met legendary Boston community activist and political gadfly, Mel King. At King's request, he and his wife ran a group home for delinquent boys in the South End.

THE GOLD STANDARD

Soon after he began working with the eye clinics at Boston's community health centers. Now, almost three decades later, Dr. Quamina represents the New England Eye Institute's "gold standard" for excellence in community care.

In recognition of the standard he exemplifies, starting next year the annual Community Clinician Award will be renamed after its first recipient: the Benjamin Andre Quamina Award for Community Care.



neil kozol '81

Opening Your Own Practice

BY KATIE ZEZIMA

After spending 20 years working as an optometrist at an HMO, helping out at his father's small practice, and working part-time for an ophthalmologist, Neil Kozol, OD, '81 decided earlier this year to make the big jump and open a practice of his own.

His is a story of how one optometrist is building a successful modern practice — Kozol Vision Center in North Easton, MA — by combining modern business techniques learned at a Small Business Development Center with his own education and career experiences.

A Big Decision

The decision to hang out his own shingle was based on considerable reflection, Dr. Kozol said, but the motivating factors centered on control of his own time rather than financial issues.

“Working at four different locations a week (the ophthalmologist had two offices) was an energy drain. It was difficult to have an outside life, take a class, go for a walk at night, or serve organized Optometry. We never had cable television at home because I was never there to watch it.”

Dr. Kozol — son of Dr. Frank Kozol '48, a professor emeritus at the College — resigned from his three jobs last February and opened his new practice outside of Boston in March.

Getting Started

A basic axiom in starting a new business is to contact as many people as you know and Dr. Kozol certainly did that. He sent out announcements with a magnetic business card with his name, address, phone number and the fact that he accepted most insurance plans to some 8,500 patients he had seen over the past five years, excluding those from the ophthalmology practice.

The effort worked. He is now seeing an average of 10 to 15 patients a day and has both full and part time employees assisting him. Most importantly, Dr. Kozol said that he has more time to accommodate his patients and more personal time for himself and his family.

But getting where he is today required a lot of work, education, and outside assistance. “You have to believe in yourself. You can’t be bashful about asking for help. It really is true that nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

A fellow alumnus from the College steered Dr. Kozol to the Small Business Development Center at Boston College, which offers entrepreneurs classes and free advice from experienced business professionals.

While the mechanics of the eye were nothing new to him, Dr. Kozol was a novice when it came to designing spreadsheets and payroll. The business program taught him everything from how to inventory glasses and contact lenses to choosing an insurance plan for his employees.

The program also helped Dr. Kozol with the most daunting part of opening a new business – formulating a business plan to bring to a bank for a small business loan. It was imperative that he secure a loan large enough to cover all expenses and create a financial base for the business.

Securing Financing

It wasn’t easy. Dr. Kozol took his plan to a large bank, and, as he said, “fell completely flat on my face.” It turned out he was being too conservative in his estimate of his income. Dr. Kozol approached two additional banks, one of which agreed to consider his plan. The third bank liked the business plan and awarded him a \$250,000 line of credit to open his business.

“I was afraid of making it look too rosy and pie in the sky, but you have to promote yourself.” Dr. Kozol said.

“It’s humbling to have a bank say “no” or “maybe”. It made me wonder ‘am I crazy to do this?’” Dr. Kozol said one of the keys to his success was not being bashful about asking for help. His father-in-law, who designs office space, helped



“You have to believe in yourself. You can’t be bashful about asking for help. It really is true that nothing ventured, nothing gained...”

DR. NEIL KOZOL

Dr. Kozol also made sure to get all the latest equipment, including a threshold perimeter and an ultra wide field scanning laser ophthalmoscope...



him find a location (after considering seven) and secure honest contractors. He also enlisted the assistance of three lawyers who specialized in tax, contracts and incorporation.

A State-of-the-Art Office

They finally settled on a 2,400 square foot location in a shopping center central to Dr. Kozol's patient base. While Dr. Kozol never imagined himself working in a strip mall, he said the office offered the perfect layout for his practice. "I wanted to project a professional image compatible with that of that of a clinic and I think we succeeded," he said.

The office has dual lighting in the exam rooms, ceiling fans to diffuse heat from the projector charts, and a DSL internet connection in all rooms. Patient records are all electronic and they dovetail with the practice management software that is used for billing and scheduling. Dr. Kozol also made sure to get all the latest equipment, including a thresh-

old perimeter and an ultra-wide field scanning laser ophthalmoscope. Word of mouth from the "Wow" factor helps bring new patients in.

"The one thing that always evaded me was the scale factor. Doing something this big seemed intimidating. I was advised "as long as you're making more money than you're spending it doesn't matter what it costs." Dr. Kozol's staff consists of an optician, technician, receptionist, bookkeeper and additional part-time help. His wife, Patti, splits her time between managing the office and working as a tech. His father, Frank, helps out on Fridays.

"I feel I've developed an environment where I look forward to working. " Dr. Kozol hopes to one day hire another optometrist, allowing him to do something he has never done — take some time off.



... word of mouth from the
"Wow" factor helps bring new
patients in.





swapping contact lenses

BY BARRY WANGER



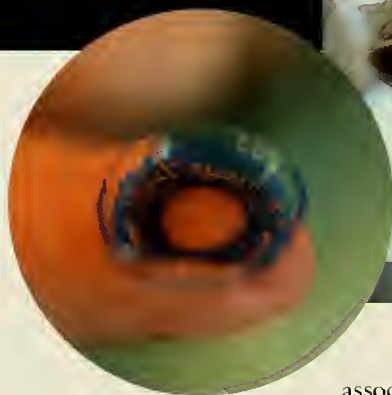
The desire of some teenagers to look “cool” by swapping contact lenses apparently is a growing and potentially dangerous practice that can result in serious eye diseases and, in some cases, blindness, a team of New England College of Optometry students discovered as part of a public health project...

The students — Crystal Klaahsen '06 and Catherine Johnson '06 — learned that 26 per cent of the high school students they interviewed freely shared plano colored contact lenses with their friends. Only female students indicated they share the contacts.

“We were surprised by the number of students who swapped lenses. Not one of them was aware of the risk of potential ocular problems,” Klaahsen said. Chief among them: the transmission of tear-borne viruses such as Epidemic Keratoconjunctivitis (EKC).

“Such viruses are extremely contagious, can spread at epidemic rates, and can cause marked conjunctival hyperemia, tearing photophobia, and pain,” she said.

Klaahsen and Johnson had heard anecdotal evidence of decorative contacts being readily available at video stores, beauty and nail shops...



lenses at a video store. The girl experienced an aggressive infection caused by a *Pseudomonas* bacterium in one eye. The teenager, who was in a lot of pain, had to be hospitalized and treated with antibiotic drops every 30 minutes for four days. She was blind in the infected eye for two months and eventually needed a corneal transplant

Other risks associated with the improper use of contact lenses include bacterial conjunctivitis, corneal ulcer, cornea sensitivity, and other important visual functions, Klaahsen and Johnson wrote in their report. They also pointed out that serious systemic conditions such as Hepatitis could potentially be transmitted through tears on contact lenses.

The students pointed out that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently collecting data about the social swapping of contact lenses and the associated health risks.

The FDA also issued a warning last year to consumers about the risk of permanent eye injury, including blindness, associated with decorative contact lenses that are either swapped or distributed without a prescription and without proper fitting an eye-care professional.

In the FDA warning, they gave what it described as one of its most serious examples of the risks involved. A 14-year-old female who wanted to turn brown eyes green to match an outfit purchased a pair of decorative contact

which involves about a year in recovery time. Klaahsen said she and Johnson had heard anecdotal evidence of decorative contacts being readily available at video stores, beauty and nail shops, and other locations in the Boston area.

As part of a follow-up to their study, the students plan to create an educational poster with general information regarding the dangers associated with unprescribed contact lens use as well as the risk of infection from tear-born viruses and other organisms that can be transmitted through contact lenses. Klaahsen said some school nurses they interviewed expressed interest in using the posters.

She said they were also considering creating a website with links to contact lens information sites and a summary of contact lens-related problems as well as a pamphlet for school nurses that would provide information on contact lens care, risk, problems and their associated symptoms.

"We can't prevent kids from doing foolish things but if they want to do it they should, at least, make informed decisions," Klaahsen said.

There are 108 new alumni of the College, two new honorary degree recipients and a host of academic, clinical and personal achievement award winners following commencement exercises in June.

Honorary degrees were awarded to Harry I. Zeltzer '52, OD, in Ocular Science and to David Crawford, PhD in Humane Letters.

Dr. Zeltzer is the past international president of Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanities (VOSH) and Dr. Crawford is founder of the International Dark Sky Associations as well as a pioneer in combating light pollution.



Class of 2004: New graduates are all smiles. Top row: Airian Thai, Hallie Huynh, Lisa Delas Santos, Thy Nguyen, Marianne Da, Susan Ladenquai(Pei). Bottom Row: Jia Lee, Judy Fan.

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Marcelline A. Ciuffreda

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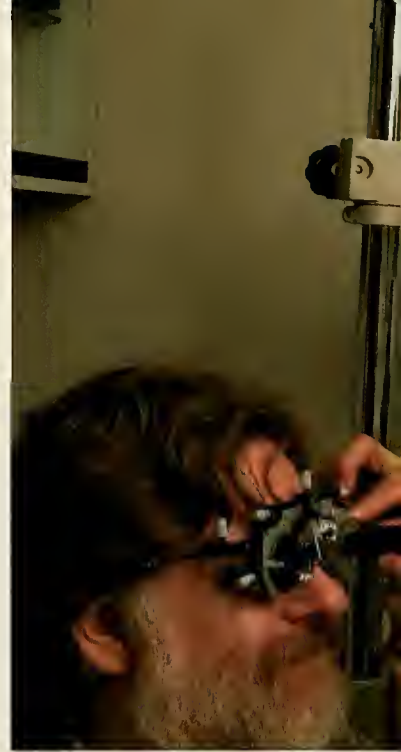
Dr. Hyman R. Kamens Award

Dr. Edward Joseph Troendle, Jr. Award

Alumni Association Award

Keesha K. Hampton and Deborah E. Johnson

National Optometric Student Association Awards



Dr. Ned Witkin was accustomed to facing obstacles, and to overcoming them. He looked at challenges faced by patients with low vision, and developed equipment to help them see. He looked at the division between optometrists and ophthalmologists, and brought them together in clinical settings.

And after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and being told it was unlikely he would leave the hospital, he spent two active years fighting the disease and continuing the work he loved.

"When Ned said he was going to do something, he did it," his wife, Beverly, recalled recently. "He was a man of his word. No matter how hard it was ... he was never deterred."

Ned S. Witkin '83, OD, director of Optometric Services and Low Vision at Emory University's Eye Center in Atlanta, Georgia, died in January. But he left behind a legacy in the patients he helped over a 20-year career — and those who will be served at the low vision clinic that will bear his name at the Emory Eye Center.

A Remarkable Career

A recognized expert in the field of low vision, Dr. Witkin appeared on "Good Morning, America" in 2001 to demonstrate cutting-edge technology that was bringing new hope to patients with macular degeneration, glaucoma and other eye diseases.

He saw a wide array of patients, from neighborhood residents to Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He established the Grady Satellite Clinic, and was instrumental in creating the new clinic that will provide low vision rehabilitation and other patient services.

It was a remarkable career that began at the New England College of Optometry. "Ned called me out of the blue in 1983 because he had heard about our practice and a new concept in optometric care and said he would like to rotate through," said Dr. Paul Ajamian '80, the director at Omni Eye Service of Atlanta.

"I told him, 'We don't have a rotation with your school' — so he established one. As a result of his work, we've had students from NEWENCO for 20 years," and in that time the two became close friends.

Dr. Ajamian had opened a low vision clinic in Atlanta, but after Dr. Witkin's arrival, "Ned practically took it over from me." His work there launched a career-encompassing passion for that field. Seeing the problems faced by legally-blind patients, Dr. Witkin became adept at finding

answers, a connection that seemed to come naturally.

Compassion and Technology

"He was always a technology maven," Mrs. Witkin explained. "He started developing film in a darkroom when he was five years old, and made a movie about 'mysterious weather' when he was eight. He was a very big James Bond fan because of all the gadgets," she said, noting that "he enjoyed the James Bond movies till the end, watching them all with our daughter during the last couple of weeks before he passed away."

As a New England College of Optometry student, he was intrigued by gadgetry, his friend and roommate, Dr. Robert "Elton" Neveloff '83 recalled. "He was always into the latest technology. We didn't have computers then, but if we did, Ned would have had the latest." Dr. Witkin's work became a blend of technology and concern for patients. "He saw people who had nowhere else to turn, and he found them a solution," Dr. Neveloff said.

Some of his best-known solutions came through his collaborative work



with Enhanced Vision Systems in California, which produced the Jordy — or Joint Optical Reflexive Display — named after the Star Trek character whose eyesight was enhanced by a visor. The original 2001 version, weighing in at about nine ounces, was slimmed to an even more wearable six ounces in its second incarnation. The instrument brought Dr. Witkin to the attention of millions of viewers through the ABC morning show, and through interviews on CNN and CBS.

But he made an equally notable appearance in 2003, when he and Dr. Ajamian demonstrated the Jordy and other equipment at SECO International. “Ned got up on stage despite his illness and presented some of the latest in low vision aids to an audience of 1,700 people. We’ve never done anything like that before,” Dr. Ajamian said.

A Well-Rounded Practitioner

“He was one of the smartest guys I ever met,” Dr. Ajamian recalled. “He had a mind for detail and theory; he applied it and worked with several companies, including the one that eventually

developed the Jordy. He saw the closed-circuit TV revolution, and watched electronics become miniaturized. He was up on everything.”

At the same time, “it wasn’t enough for him to be a low vision specialist. He was a very well rounded-practitioner. He did a lot of contact lens work, he saw a lot of primary care and disease patients, emergencies and glaucoma. He didn’t just get involved in low vision and forget about everything else. You could go to Ned for anything.”

That well-rounded description extended beyond the bounds of optometry, because bringing ideas like the Jordy to fruition also involved a keen sense of business, marketing and media. “He had incredible business savvy,” said Dr. Susan Primo 85, OD, MPH, FAAO, who is in charge of the Low Vision Clinic, the Optical Science Laboratory, and Grady Satellite Eye Clinic at Emory.

Dr. Primo began working with Dr. Witkin in 1992, and over more than a decade, watched him improve life for low vision patients. “He was a very innovative thinker. He was interested in how things work from a technological standpoint, and how to make products that were better suited for patients. He was always trying to make things more useful for patients.”

Bridging A Gap

Through his career, he also worked to bridge the gap between optometrists and ophthalmologists. It was an issue that jelled during his time at Omni, and one he promoted vigorously after joining the Emory staff in 1991.

“In the ‘eighties,” Dr. Ajamian recalled, “The optometrists in Georgia decided to start a practice that would recruit surgeons who were only interested in doing surgery, and not everyday care. That’s how our practice came to be, and it spread throughout the country as an idea, and became very successful.

Part of it was in the education of students; in those days, optometry students did not have access to ophthalmologists’ offices that saw a lot of disease.” Today, he said, fourth-year optometry students are exposed to a large number of difficult patients so they will know how to handle them.

Before Dr. Witkin was recruited to become director of the Emory Eye Center, it had no optometrists on staff; today, there are a half-dozen. He helped demonstrate, colleagues said, that optometrists and ophthalmologists could “join hands and work together” — as they do at the new Emory clinic.

His work, Mrs. Witkin said, “was his drive and his passion. He would go into the clinic, and that was him. He had a vision for the way things should be. It’s one thing to have a vision, but another to translate it into reality.

“There was nothing that was impossible to Ned.”

Scholarship Created to Honor Dr. Ned Witkin

A new, endowed scholarship in honor of the late Dr. Ned S. Witkin has been established by his classmates, family, friends and colleagues as a permanent memorial.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a student with a demonstrated interest in low vision.

At press time, nearly \$50,000 had been raised for the Witkin Scholarship.

Contributions in Dr. Witkin’s memory can be sent to:
Dr. Ned Witkin Scholarship Fund
Office of Institutional Advancement
New England College of Optometry
424 Beacon St
Boston, MA 02115

★ ★ ★

President Alan Laird Lewis '65, OD, PhD, has been elected Senior Vice President/President-elect of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America, the world's largest technical society devoted to the art and science of light and lighting.

Dr. Lewis will be president of the Society during its centennial year in 2006 and will lead the Society at its gala celebration in New York City of 100 years of contributions to lighting.

Founded in 1906, the IESNA represents lighting designers, manufacturers and distributors of lamps and lighting equipment, researchers, and public advocates of quality lighting in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Dr. Lewis became involved in IESNA in 1972 when he was appointed as a member of technical committees concerned

with lighting quality and color. He has published over 40 scientific and applied papers on the role of lighting on visual performance, especially as it applies to the aging population and vision at low light levels.

His most recent work involves investigating the role of light source spectrum on vision during night driving and on an improved roadway and outdoor lighting specification system.

Dr. Lewis is active in numerous other scientific and professional societies, including the American Academy of



Optometry, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, the Optical Society of America, the American Public Health Association, and the Society of Automotive Engineers.

He is currently President-elect of the Partnership Foundation for Optometric Education. He is a Fellow of both IESNA and the American Academy of Optometry.

1940's

➤ **Frank Kozol '48**, Sharon, MA, is in the process of writing a book about his war memories from Europe.

1950's

➤ **Richard Land '50**, Cranston, RI, has retired from his position as a radiologist.

➤ **Harry Zeltzer '52**, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Ocular Science at the College's commencement. He was also recently honored by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Most recently, Harry served as International President of Volunteers in Optometric Service to Humanity (VOSH).

1960's

➤ **Marvin G. Baum '64**, Mililani, HI, is semi-retired and is enjoying playing golf, water sports, and fishing. He was Optometrist of the Year in Hawaii in 2003 as well as past President of the Hawaii Optometry Society. He also served as Legislative Chair of the Hawaiian Optometry Board.

➤ **James Brockway '64**, Cooperstown, NY, is celebrating his 40th year in practice. He is actively involved in community theatre and a church music project.

➤ **Paul Edelman '64**, Peekskill, NY, is also celebrating 40 years in practice.

➤ **John Michaels '64**, Rye Brook, NY; John has been retired for seven years. He

plays tennis, bridge, and he goes to the beach. He has three grandchildren.

➤ **Matthew Elgart '66**, Hadlyme, CT; Matthew is a Trustee of the college, as well as a member of the Alumni Board.

➤ **Matthew Garston '66**, Chestnut Hill, MA, recently presented the Keynote Address at the 100th Anniversary of the New South Wales State Optometric Association in Sydney, Australia. While in Australia, he also spoke with 3rd and 4th year Optometry students studying at the Queensland University of Technology. On his return, Matthew stopped in Hawaii to present to the Hawaii Optometric Association and while in Maui, he met with **Chet Twarowski '66**.

➤ **Charles Mullen '69**, Alexandria, VA, was appointed to the Board of the New England Eye Institute this year. He was President of ICO from 1996 until 2002. He retired last year.

1970's

➤ **Albert DuCharme '74**, Leesburg, FL, is moving his office to a new building and has added one O.D. to his two-person practice.

➤ **Alan Gold '74**, Rockville, MD, went to George Mason University to get his Law Degree. He has a son, 21, at Miami University in Ohio, and daughter, 16.

➤ **Thomas F. Freddo '76**, Newton, MA, received an Honorary Degree from the College of Optometry at the State University of New York. An adjunct professor of optometry at NEWENCO, he also serves as professor of Ophthalmology Pathology and anatomy at Boston University School of Medicine and Senior Consultant in Ophthalmic Pathology at Boston Medical center.

➤ **Bruce Bunker '79**, Westford, MA, has been working at Nashua Eye Associates for the past four years.

➤ **Gregory Gachowski '79**, Tupper Lake, NY, is rebuilding his practice after his office burned down last March.

➤ **Paul Klein '79**, N. Miami Beach, FL, was recently elected as an AOA Council Member in the Cornea and Contact Lens Division.

1980's

➤ **Gary Maglio '84**, W Hartford, CT, is expanding his practice.

➤ **Wayne Zahka '84**, Westwood, MA, is chairman of the board and immediate past president of the MSO. He was the Optometrist of the Year for 2003.

➤ **Mahesh Bhardwaj '89**, Reading, MA, has been a clinical instructor at Tufts for 18 years. Mahesh and his wife, Mary, have two children.

➤ **Kevin Chauvette '89**, Bedford, NH, has an office in Manchester, NH, where

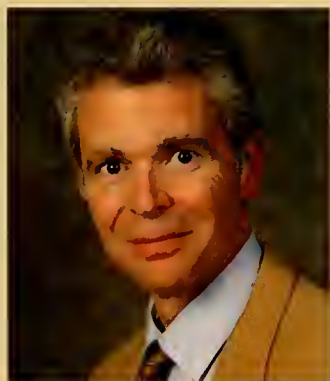
he works with three other ODs and practices optometry at three different hospitals, in the rehab department.

➤ **Leslie Koo '89**, Miami, FL, recently opened a new practice on the Caribbean Island of Tobago.

1990's

➤ **Ana Gomes '90**, Milford, CT, gave birth to twin boys last November. Sarah (Haakonsen) Reyes '90. Agoura Hills, CA, is working at a LASIK surgery center with an ophthalmologist after spending seven years in the Optometry Department at Mullikin Medical Center in Glendale, CA. She has twin, one-year-old daughters.

➤ **Jason Smith '93**, Forty Fort, PA, is founder of Home Eye Care, staff optometrist at 15 nursing homes, and head of optometry services at the White Haven Medical Center. He also will be teaching a course on community health administration at King's College.



James A. Bourgeois, Class of '82

James A. Bourgeois, OD, MD, has been named the Alan Stoudemire Professor of Psychosomatic Medicine and Director of the Psychiatry Consultation-Liaison Service at University of California, Davis Medical Center.

He is the author of 40 peer-reviewed publications and 8 books or book chapters, most of which pertain to general psychiatry and/or consultation-liaison psychiatry. He has held academic appointments at University of California, Davis, University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio, and Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He serves as a Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve.

His academic interests are in the integration of medical and psychiatric illness, psychopharmacology, models of service delivery in consultation-liaison psychiatry, and neuropsychiatry.

Dr. Bourgeois is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha, the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, the American Neuropsychiatric Association, and the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.



Col. Joseph Molinari '74, reservist to the Air Staff HQ Pentagon and Medical Liaison, is the recipient of The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States 2003 Optometry Outstanding Service & Recognition Award. He was also recently inducted into the National Academy of Practice.

➤ **Paul Hamel '94**, Boxford, MA, and his wife recently became parents for the second time.

➤ **Daniel Jandreau '95**, Caribou, ME, recently became a father for the third time.

➤ **Thomas Lezaj '99**, Fayetteville, GA, has a one-year-old son.

➤ **Tara Mullen '99**, Hixson, TN; has been working at WalMart for the past three years.

➤ **Michelle Kim '99**, Carlsbad, CA, is working with a general ophthalmologist and is a member of the San Diego Optometric Society.

2000's

➤ **Tai Nguyen '00**, Kensington, CT, recently opened a new office.

➤ **Kathleen Prophet-Harms '00**, Newton, MA, gave birth to a son in June.

➤ **John Rabins '00**, Colorado Springs, CO, recently traveled to Kurdish villages in Western Armenia on a medical

mission trip. In three days at a local clinic, John saw over 100 patients and dispensed 70 sets of glasses to people who had previously never received eyecare.

➤ **Olga Zeldin '00**, Newton, MA, is practicing part-time in a private practice in Framingham, MA. She has three daughters; ages 1, 2 and 5.

➤ **Amy Croteau '02**, Keene, NH, has been working at the Boston Foundation for Sight for the past year.

➤ **Christine Dodge '02**, Pineville, LA, is Zone Chairperson of the VA in Louisiana.

➤ **Nashina Jiwani '02**, Toronto, is working as an associated at two different practice and is a member of the Ontario Association of Optometrists.

➤ **Shirin Esmail '03**, Baltimore, MD, recently finished her residency in Ocular Disease at the VA in Baltimore. She became engaged in March.

➤ **Christina Farag '03**, Seattle, WA, Christina finished her residency in refractive surgery in June of this year.

➤ **Matthew Francis '03**, Havre de Grace, MD; Matthew recently completed his residency in Ocular Disease at D'Ambrosio Eyecare. He got married in May.

➤ **Kristen Holmberg '03**, recently finished her residency in Primary Care and Geriatrics at the VA in Brockton, MA.

➤ **Jacob Lang '03**, Glenwood, MN, recently finished a residency in contact lenses.

➤ **Nisha Patel '03**, Arlington, MA, is working with an MD involved with contact lenses, pediatrics, and low vision.

➤ **Amy Roan '03**, Somerville, MA, is a faculty member on the Martha Elliot staff.

➤ **Kuljeet Singh '03**, Auburn, WA, has opened her own practice.

➤ **Brendon Weaver '03**, Kunkletown, PA, recently joined the Berks Eye Physicians and Surgeons practice.

MARRIAGES

➤ **Nancy Carlson '77** and **Tom Corwin '93**, Oct., 2003

➤ **Daniel Arnoldi '02**, Morristown, NJ, Aug., 2003

➤ **Nisha Patel '03**, Arlington, MA, Aug., 2004

➤ **Christina Farag '03**, Seattle, WA, Aug. 2004

Thirteen of the fifteen current members of the Board of the Maine Optometric Association are NEWENCO alumni:

Michael P. Anastasio, '87
Linda Cameron, '97
Paul Cote, '94
Lee DeRosa, '78
Philip Goldthwait, '88

Anne-Louise Goulet, '92
Daniel Jandreau, '95
Reg Mailhot, '77
Frank Myska, '83

Gerrard W. Rudmin, '77
Ruth E. Stevens, '87
John Walters, '97
Kevin M. Webb, '92

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Dr. Nancy Coletta has been promoted to the rank of Professor. She has been the College's key person for the ongoing development and implementation of the optics curriculum and has been awarded two National Eye Institute grants. She was recently elected Vice-Chair of the Optical Society of America's Applications of Visual Science Technical Group.

Dr. Jane Gwiazda has been promoted to the rank of Professor. She is recognized internationally for her contributions to understanding the development of refractive error and binocular vision in infants and children. She has published more than 125 papers and serves as the national coordinator of the COMET multi-center clinical trial. She has held four National Eye Institute grants totaling close to \$5 million.

Dr. Taline Farra has been promoted to Associate Professor of Optometry. Her scholarly focus is in the advanced medical management of ocular disease, specifically within the condition of Glaucoma. She serves as Director of Eye Care Services, Codman Square Community Health Center.

Dr. Marjorie Rah has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Optometry. She is involved in several national research efforts including the ACHIEVE Study (Adolescent and Child Health Initiative to Encourage Vision Empowerment). Dr. Rah is engaged nationally with a number of organizations, including the American Academy of Optometry, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the newly formed Orthokeratology Academy of America.

Dr. Rodney Gutner, an adjunct faculty member, has been promoted to the rank of Professor. Dr. Gutner is the Director of Optometry at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford. Dr. Gutner joined the faculty in 1973 and is involved in the Principles & Practice of Optometry course where his focus is Ophthalmic Photodocumentation.

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. W. Lee Ball, Jr. joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Optometry. Dr. Ball received his Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of Houston, College of Optometry in 2001. He subsequently completed a residency at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Dr. Ball will serve as the Clinical Director of the New England Eye Institute at Fenway.

Dr. Shital Mani joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Optometry. Dr. Shah received her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 2003, and then completed a residency at the State University of New York College of Optometry. Dr. Mani's primary role will be as the attending preceptor at South Boston Community Health Center.

Dr. Shilpa Register joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Optometry. Dr. Register received her Doctor of Optometry and Master of Science in Vision Science degrees from University of Alabama at

Birmingham in 2000. For the past three years, Dr. Register has been in private practice in Alabama. She will serve as the Clinical Director of the New England Eye Institute at Chelsea.

Dr. Amy Roan joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Optometry. Dr. Roan received her Doctor of Optometry degree from The New England College of Optometry in 2003. She then completed a residency at the VA-Bedford. Dr. Roan's primary role will be as the attending preceptor at Martha Eliot Health Center.

Dr. Vandhana Sharda joins the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Optometry. Dr. Sharda received her Doctor of Optometry degree from The New England College of Optometry in 2003. She then completed a residency in family practice at Dimock Community Health Center. Her primary responsibility will be as an attending at the Dimock Community Health Center.

Dupuis Pellerin Award

Drs. **Daniel Kurtz** and **Mark Zorn** are the 2004 recipients of the Dupuis Pellerin Award for Faculty Excellence. The award is granted annually to a member of the faculty whose peers feel have contributed to the advancement of the College, its educational mission, or the profession of optometry during the past year.

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Malaysia

The College has signed a memorandum of understanding with The International University College of Technology Twintech(IUCTT), and The Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital (THONEH). The institutions are working on joint programs through The Center for the Advancement of International Optometry (CIAO). Representatives from the Malaysian institutions visited the College earlier this year.

Aalen Germany

Four first year students participated in a new elective course — "Learning and Applying Dispensing Optics to Patient Care" — offered by the College through the Center for the International Advancement of Optometry in Aalen, Germany. The students visited the Zeiss lens manufacturing factory and two private practices.

Spain

The College conducted a graduation ceremony in Madrid in June for 12 Spanish students who successfully completed the Bachelor of Science in Optometry program, held in conjunction with the Centro Boston de Optometria. All of the graduates are practicing optometrists who participated in the intensive two-year program to upgrade their education from the diploma provided through the university system in Spain.

Coordinated by Drs. Clifford Scott in Boston and Fernando Hidalgo in Spain, the courses were presented in modules spaced over two years and taught in Madrid by College faculty members. During the first week in July 2003, the students attended an elective series of courses and hands-on clinical workshops in Boston, where they also had the opportunity to participate in the US Independence Day festivities.



Front row: Drs. Mary Scott, Clifford Scott, David Heath, Fernando Hidalgo. Second row: Sonia Sanz, Rosa Gòdia, Adelina Bernabeu, Cristina Muñoz, Leticia Fraile, Tamara Garcia, Maria Jesús Barrio. Third row: Pedro Alcántara, Juan Carlos Viñuela, Antonio Pérez, Javier Cantà, Javier Rodriguez.

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David Heath, OD, EdM, vice president and dean of academic affairs, and Rosa Godia at commencement.



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eyes (as compared to 5-degrees in
standard ophthalmoscopes)



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the brightness and superior streak
quality vs. standard retinoscopes



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